Case 2:06-cv-00049-F

Document 9-4 Filed 01/10/2007

Page 1 of 8

Exhibit "H"

NORTH CAROLINA

WAKE COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 05 CVS 000173

RICHARD P. NORDAN, as Ancillary Administrator for the separate Estates of STEPHEN S. HELVENSTON, MIKE R. TEAGUE, JERKO GERALD ZOVKO and WESLEY J.K. BATALONA,

Plaintiffs,

BLACKWATER SECURITY)
CONSULTING, LLC, a Delaware Limited)
Liability Company; BLACKWATER)
LODGE AND TRAINING CENTER, INC.,)
a Delaware Corporation, JUSTIN L.)
MCQUOWN, an individual; and THOMAS)
POWELL, an individual,)

Defendants.

ORDER FOR COMMISSION TO TAKE DEPOSITION



FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO COMMISSIONER OR COURT REPORTER ASSOCIATED WITH NORTHERN LIGHTS REAL TIME & REPORTING:

WHEREAS, it appears to the Superior Court of the State of North Carolina, County of Wake, from the application of Stephen S. Helvenston, Mike R. Teague, Jerko Gerald Zovko and Wesley J. K. Batalona, that John Potter of Anchorage, Alaska, is a material witness in the action currently pending in this Court, and that the testimony of the witness can now be taken by Deposition; this Court appoints you a commissioner to examine the witness.

This Court requests that process issue in Anchorage, Alaska, requiring attendance and enforcing the obligations of the witness to produce documents and answer questions.

You are authorized and empowered on January 28, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. local time, at 3819 Hampton Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, 99504, to administer under oath to the witness and to cause the testimony of the witness on oral examination to be videographically recorded and reduced to writing and subscribed by the witness, and to certify the deposition to the above-entitled court and forward it in a sealed envelope, endorsed with the title of this action and marked "Deposition of John Potter, to David F. Kirby, attorney for Plaintiff Richard P. Nordan, Ancillary Administrator of the Estates of Stephen S. Helvenston, Mike R. Teague, Jerko Gerald Zovko and Wesley J. K. Batalona at Kirby & Holt, L.L.P., P. O. Box 31665, Raleigh, North Carolina, 27622."

This the 21 day of January, 2005.

Educy 41. Dell', Superior Court Judge Presiding Jan-04-2007 13:56 From-

T-430 P.002/005 F-873

'IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION 05-CVS-173 COUNTY OF WAKE शाली असे -4 कि राजि RICHARD P. NORDAN, as Ancillary ...). CSC Administrator for the separate Estates of STEPHEN S. HELVENSTON, MIKE R. TEAGUE, JERKO GERALD ZOVKO and WESLEY J.K. BATALONA, Plaintiffs, ORDER UPON RECONSIDERATION ٧ŝ. BLACKWATER SECURITY CONSULTING, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company; BLACKWATER LODGE AND TRAINING CENTER, INC., a Delaware Corporation, JUSTIN L. MCQUOWN, an individual; and THOMAS POWELL, an individual, Defendants.

This matter came on for hearing before the undersigned judge upon the Court's own motion and upon motion of Defendants requesting the Court to reconsider its December 15, 2006 decision to allow Plaintiff's motion for Issuance of a Commission for the Taking of Out of State Deposition of John Potter.

From the information provided to the Court at this hearing today it is clear that the Court previously drew incorrect inferences from the limited facts that were presented in chambers on December 15, 2006 and erroneously concluded that John Potter was likely to leave Alaska for Iraq at the end of January 2007 and would not be available thereafter for deposition. The Court finds that there was no intent by any counsel to mislead the Court and that any misunderstanding grew out of the limited information available to the attorneys who actually appeared before the

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T-430 P.003/005 F-873

Court on December 15, 2006. The Court finds no intentional misrepresentation and denies the motion for sanctions.

The Court does find from the history of this case and the actions of Defendants and John Potter which precluded a prior effort to take the Potter deposition, that it is probable that Mr. Potter's future availability for deposition will remain uncertain.

Assistant United States Attorney Rudy Renfer and Major Patrick L. Gary, United States Army and Special Assistant United States Attorney appeared on behalf of the United States government and renewed the request of the United States to be given adequate time to review the document requests and the subject matter of the oral deposition of John Potter to determine if any such information is classified and not subject to disclosure in this litigation. The Court finds this request to be reasonable and prudent.

Upon reconsideration of this matter the Court concludes that the Commission for Taking Deposition of John Potter dated December 15, 2006 should be held in abeyance for a minimum of 45 days so that Plaintiff may submit to the United States Attorney for review a list and description of documents sought and the substance of oral testimony anticipated. Thereafter, subject to any limitations imposed by federal law, the deposition of John Potter shall proceed and the undersigned will request that the Superior Court of Alaska issue a subpoena commanding that John Potter appear at a specific date and time to comply.

The motions currently scheduled for hearing in this case on January 19, 2007 are continued until the administrative session of the court commencing April 9, 2007 at a day and time to be hereafter determined.

In the entry of this order the Court is exercising its discretion and relying upon its inherent authority to permit limited discovery of the deposition of a witness whose future

Jan-04-2007 18:67

whereabouts may become uncertain. The Court finds and concludes that no party will suffer any prejudice from the discovery and preservation of this witness's testimony.

The undersigned expresses appreciation to the State of Alaska and to Superior Court Judge Morgan Christen for her assistance and patience and asks that she delay further proceedings until the undersigned hereafter submits any further requests in this matter consistent with this order.

So ordered this the 4th day of January, 2007.

SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Jan-04-2007 13:57 From-

T-430 P.005/005 F-873

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing document was served on the parties listed below by mailing and/or hand-delivering a copy thereof to each of said parties, addressed, postage prepaid, as follows:

> Mr. Kirk G. Warner Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan PO Box 2611 Raleigh, NC 27602

Mr. David F. Kirby Kirby & Holt PO Box 31665 Raleigh, NC 27622

Mr. Rudy Renfer Assistant United States Attorney Civil Division 310 New Bern Ave., Ste. 800 Raleigh, NC 27601

The Honorable Morgan Christen Superior Court Judge Third Judicial District 825 W. 4th Ave. Anchorage, AK. 99501

This, the 5th day of January, 2007.

Terri Stewart

Judioial Assistant

Wake County Superior Court Judges' Office

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify I electronically served **Request for Judicial Notice** by sending notification via email addressed to the following:

Kirk G. Warner

kwarner@smithlaw.com

Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, LLP

P. O. Box 2611

Raleigh, NC 27602

This the <u>day</u> of January, 2007.

KIRBY & HOLT, L.L.P.

David F. Kirby

N.C. Bar #7841